

Importance of Faith II Cor. 13:5-6

Introduction:

As we look throughout the Bible, and especially the New Testament, we see that there is only one faith.

1. **Acts 14:21-22** - And when they [Paul and Barnabas] had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, {22} strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in **the faith**, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
2. **Phil. 1:27** - Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for **the faith** of the gospel.
3. **Jude 1:3** - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for **the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.
4. **Eph. 4:5** - one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

I. Faith is important because without faith, we cannot please God.

- A. We must have faith in God in order to be pleasing to Him
 1. **Heb. 11:6** - But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
 - a. There are two things that we must to in order to please God.
 - 1) We "**must believe that He is.**"
 - a) We must know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that He exists.
 - b) This fact has been seen from the beginning of the creation of the world.
 - i. It was assumed that God existed.
 - ii. **Gen. 1:1** - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
 - iii. **Ps. 19:1-2** - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. {2} Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.
 - iv. **Rom. 1:20-21** - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, {21} because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became

futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- c) In order to please God, we must believe that He is.
- 2) We must also believe “that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - a) We must have faith that God will give us the things that we need when we seek after Him.
 - b) **Mt. 6:33** - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
- b. “Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

II. Faith is important because salvation comes by faith.

- A. We have salvation because of the faith that we have.
 1. Peter sums it up well in I Pet. 1.
 - a. **I Pet. 1:3-5** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
 - b. **I Pet. 1:8-9** - Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, {9} receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of your souls.
 2. Notice some other passages as well.
 - a. **Rom. 3:25-26** - whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, {26} to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
 - b. **II Tim. 3:14-15** - But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, {15} and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - c. **Gal. 3:26** - For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - d. **Eph. 2:8-9** - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- B. Our faith is that which gives us the eternal victory.
 1. Our faith gives us the victory over this world.
 - a. **I Jn. 5:4** - For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.

2. We need to understand that no man can take away our faith.
3. The apostles understood that even though they were persecuted physically, no one could destroy their faith.
 - a. There are numerous times in the book of Acts that the apostles were beaten for their faith; yet they continued to preach the gospel of Christ.
 - b. **Acts 5:41-42** - So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. {42} And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
 - c. They remembered the words of Jesus.
 - 1) **Mt. 10:28** - And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
 - 2) The same is true for us today.
 - 3) No man can take away our faith.

III. Faith is important because we live according to our faith.

- A. Notice a few passages that teach us how to live.
 1. **Gal. 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
 2. **Rom. 1:17** - For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."
 3. **Heb. 10:38** - Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.
 4. **II Cor. 5:7** - For we walk by faith, not by sight.
- B. Everything that we do should in our lives be based on our faith.
 1. We try to live faithfully to Him in every way.
 2. We must live by faith in God if we are going to live eternally with Him.
 3. In order to live by faith we must study the word of God and understand what that faith is.

Conclusion:

Most of all, we must constantly know if we are "in the faith."

1. **II Cor. 13:5** - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified. {6} But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.
2. Obviously, we compare our faith to the faith that we read of in the word of God.
3. We must live up to that word if we are going to live eternally with the Father.
4. **I Cor. 16:13** - Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.